

CASH BEFORE SURVIVAL IS ORDER OF DAY

By NEIL SCOTT

SURVIVAL may be more than Wycombe Wanderers, Leatherhead and Wimbledon can reasonably expect in the F A Cup today, though all three relish the prospect of a useful cash windfall after reaching the third round for the first time.

Wycombe's manager, Brian Lee, has insisted ever since the draw was made that his Rothmans Isthmian League side have "no chance" against Jackie Charlton's Middlesbrough, currently second in the First Division.

The notorious slope at Wycombe's Loakes Park ground might give the non-League team a slight advantage until Middlesbrough adjust to its subtleties, though Peterborough soon came to terms with it when they beat Wycombe 3-1 in the F A Cup last season.

Wycombe expect to field their strongest line-up, including Mick Hollifield, a gifted striker who broke a wrist playing against Bournemouth in the previous round. The plaster has been removed and replaced with bandages.

Chris Perry, who had a cartilage operation last November, has made a rapid recovery and returns to the Leatherhead attack at Brighton. Derek Wells, who has a toe injury, drops out to make room for Perry.

Leatherhead have three players —Woffinden, Smith and Sargeant—who helped Walton humiliate Brighton at Hove in the F A Cup

last season by beating them in a first-round replay.

Brighton's manager, Peter Taylor, then assistant to Brian Clough, has the task of preventing another humiliation.

Wimbledon carry the hopes of the Southern League with them to Burnley where they meet First Division opponents for the first time in their 90-years history. A good performance would aid Wimbledon's drive for election to the Football League.

Allen Batsford, the manager, has named 14 players, though midfield player Dave Bassett, sent off in a midweek match, is doubtful with a leg injury. Wimbledon's main hope rests with their two high-scoring strikers, Roger Connell and Keiron Somers, nicknamed "The Pirates."

'THE BIG MATCH'

LONDON Weekend Television's "The Big Match" will be down at High Wycombe on January 4 for the F.A. Cup tie between Wycombe Wanderers and Middlesbrough. It is understood that the Wanderers' first appearance in the third round of the cup will be the main match on the Sunday afternoon programme.

Commentator Brian Moore will bring the Saturday morning feature "On the Ball" to viewers from Loakes Park. B.B.C. are also arranging a live radio commentary on the match for their "Sport on 2" programme.

Due to the television coverage the game will kick off earlier than usual, at 2 p.m. This is due to the extra light needed for colour television.